



GO!





# Gamble On Love

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# Chapter 1

Synopsis: <http://www.books.shushengbar.com/?p=3805>

Review: <http://seoulinlovenow.blogspot.com.au/p/sungkyunkwan-scandal.html>

Main female character: Chen An An

Main male character: Gu Yang

Second male lead: Li Mu

Other supporting cast:

Chen Yu Bai (An An's father)

Liang Xing (Gu Yang's younger sister)

Chen Xiao Xiao (An An's younger sister)

## Chapter 1

'An An, have you decided?' Gu Yang asked.

'I'll take on the bet,' An An said.

An An put on a bravado front, because she didn't want to give him the satisfaction of knowing she was scared of losing. Losing was an understatement. Growing up, any bet they made between them the outcome was always the same winner and loser. Since Gu Yang was always the winner, she felt there was no need to acknowledge who was the loser.

Gu Yang smiled deviously. 'Ok. Let our bet commence now. By tonight I'll announce our engagement to both our parents.'

Unlike his usual charming smile his devious smile gave her a cold sweat. As if he had a hidden trump card.

At work An An dealt with her daily tasks. But she couldn't shake off bad premonitions. She stood by the window and the clear blue sky and white clouds helped her push aside her anxiety to call Li Mu.

When An An called Li Mu, he was busy observing an injured pregnant panther.

‘Take care of your safety,’ An An said.

An An chickened out and an awkward silence followed.

‘Bao Bao (darling), is there something on your mind? Did you make another eccentric bet with Gu Yang?’ Li Mu asked.

Li Mu disliked any connection between Bao Bao and Gu Yang.

An An was embarrassed Li Mu could sense why she was anxious.

‘There’s nothing on my mind,’ An An said and hung up her phone.

At night Gu Yang acted on his threat and came over her parents’ home. Her dad Yu Bai and Gu Yang were playing chess in the living room whilst waiting for her mum’s infamous cooked meals. The two men sat close together and made a unique handsome portrait.

An An wasn’t certain if Gu Yang lost deliberately or was outmanoeuvred by her dad, because it was a close match. She sat behind Gu Yang and subtly poked his hip. Gu Yang smiled politely and asked her dad to explain the strategy her dad used to beat him. Gu Yang’s exuberance show of attentive listening made her gloat on the inside that he deserved a long winded step by step demonstration from her dad for ignoring her subtle poke to get his attention.

Her dad’s long slender finger adjusted the bridge of his glasses above his nose and gave his trademark icy stare in her direction. She knew her dad recognised the gloat in her eyes and rushed to open the front door for her little sis Xiao Xiao (aka Xiao Bao, little darling) to escape her dad’s scrutiny.

Xiao Xiao was seven years younger than her and by the time Xiao Xiao was in the seventh grade it felt like Xiao Xiao’s IQ surpassed her IQ.

‘Hi sis,’ Xiao Xiao said.

After Xiao Xiao greeted her, Xiao Xiao ran into the living room where the two handsome men sat.

‘My dearest dad,’ Xiao Xiao said and back hugged their dad. ‘Dad you’re even more handsome today.’

‘Get to the point,’ dad said. He used his usual cool tone and had no patience for trivial small talk. ‘What trouble did you cause this time?’

‘I accidentally burnt down the school’s lab,’ Xiao Xiao said and poked out her tongue.

Their dad coldly smiled and gave off a silent murderous vibe. Xiao Xiao wasn’t nonchalant as before and started shaking. Xiao Xiao turned to Gu Yang and pleaded with a pitiful tone. ‘Brother-in-law...’

Gu Yang looked up at An An and An An gave Xiao Xiao a dirty look. But Xiao Xiao shamelessly hid behind Gu Yang’s back.

‘Brother-in-law, save me!’ Xiao Xiao pleaded.

‘I can’t save you,’ Gu Yang said and grinned. ‘But I have good news that will soften the blow of your bad news.’

Their dad’s curiosity about Gu Yang’s good news temporarily averted their dad’s mind away from Xiao Xiao’s confession.

‘Mmm,’ dad uttered and turned to exchange a glance with An An. ‘Let’s eat dinner first.’

Their mum An Xiao Li’s culinary skills pre-marriage and post marriage remained static. Statically hard to swallow. The two handsome men’s reaction after each bite remained indifferent. An An and Xiao Xiao on the other hand didn’t need to control their expressions, because they opted for milk whenever their mum cooked.

‘An An, have a bite of the braised pork ribs. It’s to die for,’ Gu Yang challenged.

‘My daughters aren’t used to eating late dinners,’ mum said and gave An An a comforting smile. It made An An felt in that moment... mum was a unique bouquet of flowers.

Gu Yang smiled even more charming than usual. ‘An An’s not fat at all. I find girls with curves are attractive. An An, you should get used to eating more.’

Gu Yang’s implied message you-have-no-excuse-left-not-to-eat-your-mum’s-food made An An queasy.

An An was about to retaliate but her phone rang and an international number was displayed. She hid her excitement. She stood up to leave the dining room but didn’t miss Gu Yang’s cold disapproving glance.

Away from the dining room An An answered the phone.

‘Hello,’ An An said.

‘Haha! Bao Bao! I’ll fly home soon,’ Li Mu said.

‘Uh, what’s your arrival date? I’ll pick you up at the airport,’ An An said.

‘No need. I’m on the same flight with Liang Xing. She’s been volunteering at an orphanage-’ Li Mu said.

An An sighed and hung up the phone in disappointment. She stood where chilly breezes passed through her for a long time. By the time she returned to the dining room, dinner was over. She stared at the empty dining table, silently forced a smile... suddenly she felt hungry.

End of chapter one.

## ***Related***



# Chapter 2

## Chapter Two

Li Mu and Liang Xing landed back home.

An An in her bias opinion thought Liang Xing was a weirdo. To others Liang Xing was a martyr, someone parents wanted their kids to aspire to become when they grow up. Liang Xing was the youngest and only girl in the Liang's family of triplets. Gu Yang and Liang Xing's dad was the CEO of an influential company and also had underground connections (the Asian version equivalent to the Italian mafia). In An An's eyes Liang Xing was a pampered brat with a princess complex. An An could deal with that if it stopped there. What made An An classified Liang Xing as a weirdo was that Liang Xing chose to spend her days helping the poor and sick in foreign countries. How was an average girl like An An supposed to compete for the affections of Li Mu against someone whose life mission was to be canonized as a living saint? Another kick to An An's ego was Liang Xing had the looks and demeanour of an angel in heels.

'Liang Xing, you must be suffering from a goodie two-shoes ocd,' An An muttered.

'My sis doesn't have a goodie two-shoes ocd. She knows what she wants to do with her life,' Gu Yang whispered. He'd crept up behind An An whilst she was having unladylike spiteful thoughts. 'She's not like you. You look smart on the outside but in reality you're simple minded. Your eyes can't even hide your true thoughts.'

At the Liang family's home the lights shone brightly in contrast to the night sky outside.

Gu Yang was wearing a grey suit and smiled deviously. An An sighed. 'Gu Yang. Why is it whenever I'm around you, I feel the desire to curse?'

'Care to elaborate?' Gu Yang asked.

An An cursed explicitly starting with the f bomb.

Gu Yang smiled wider and leaned down next to An An's ear. 'You're welcome

to use my body to go through with your threats.'

'Get lost,' An An said and shoved Gu Yang away. But An An felt unbalanced from drinking too much and swayed after taking two steps. An An felt a strong arm gently steadied her around the shoulders to prevent her from falling. It was a familiar warm embrace that could only belong to Li Mu.

'Bao Bao, be careful,' Li mu said.

An An lifted her head and was greeted by Li Mu's warm smile. But An An's good mood was spoiled by Princess Liang Xing not far behind Li Mu, who was making her way toward them.

Gu Yang maintained a cool exterior. Only An An could interpret that it was Gu Yang's way of mocking her innocent act as a damsel in distress.

Li Mu was the opposite of Gu Yang. Li Mu always treated An An sincerely. Li Mu was her shining prince in the whole wide world.

'Hi second brother,' Liang Xing said. Then Liang Xing smiled too sweetly at An An. 'Hi An An! Long-time no see!'

An An hooked her arm around Li Mu's arm and smiled too sweetly back at Liang Xing. Liang Xing pretended nothing happened. But Gu Yang gave An An an icy stare.

Li Mu and Liang Xing made small talk about endangered species and disadvantaged kids that bored An An to death. To An An it was like listening to accounting figures recited in her head. An An distracted herself by staring at Gu Yang's wine glass. Gu Yang stared at An An's self-pity expression and gulped his wine glass. Then an absurd thought popped into her head... why was Gu Yang acting like a jealous lover? An An shook that ridiculous notion away. It was impossible for a guy like Gu Yang to be secretly in love with someone like An An who was a tomboy that cursed like a sailor and always duped into entering bets and came out as a sore loser. Besides, Gu Yang was the second prince of the Liang family, a distinguished lawyer, too handsome for his own good and countless women flocked to him. An An felt uneasy thinking about women being intimate with Gu Yang.

An An tugged at Li Mu's arm. 'Li Mu, my head hurts.'

‘Ah,’ Li Mu uttered and held An An tight. ‘You’re feeling unwell?’

An An nodded and looked at Li Mu pitifully.

Li Mu sighed and pinched An An’s nose. ‘I’ll drive you home.’

Liang Xing smiled suspiciously. ‘Earlier I prepared two guest rooms upstairs. Why don’t both of you stay the night?’

Li Mu hesitated and An An swore Liang Xing’s firm tone implied if-you-persuade-him-to-reject-my-offer-don’t-expect-to-stay-alive intimidated An An. An An was about to risk being slayed by Liang Xing but Li Mu agreed to stay.

‘I’m worried An An will be car sick in her condition, it’s better if we stay,’ Li Mu said.

‘Li Mu!’ An An said and held Li Mu’s arm tightly. Li Mu looked at An An strangely and it flustered her. ‘Then... then you escort me upstairs! My legs are wobbly!’

Li Mu smiled and stroked An An’s head. ‘Ok.’

End of Chapter Two.

## ***Related***

# Chapter 3

## Chapter Three

\* **Spoiler Warning** \* Chapter three is a little \* **steamy** \* PG rating.

An An was dreaming about sweet childhood memories.

‘Bao Bao run slowly!’ Li Mu said.

Li Mu’s voice was soothing. An An felt the gentle wind on her favourite beach. Li Mu was older than An An by ten years, An An’s adolescent body back then was no match for Li Mu’s tall frame. When Li Mu smiled it was like a halo surrounded his body. Li Mu was An An’s sun and she felt like she was his sunflower always facing his direction. Li Mu was An An’s prince inside her heart, her true love and it was hard for her to describe the love between them.

An An once asked her dad why someone with his intelligence would name his daughters ‘An An,’ ‘Xiao Xiao,’ nicknamed them ‘Bao Bao’ and ‘Xiao Bao.’

An An’s dad drank his sweet coffee before looking up at An An’s blank face.

‘An An, Xiao Xiao were names given by your mum,’ dad said. ‘As for Bao Bao, Xiao Bao...’ Her dad lifted his newspaper. ‘Can you refute when someone calls you Bao Bao softly you’re not thankful toward me for your nickname?’

After her dad’s rhetorical question his expression stayed neutral and continued reading his newspaper. An An could only smile in response...

‘Bao Bao...’ An An’s dream state was disturbed by a prince’s voice mumbling sweet things into her ear, she could barely register each word heard... but she felt a heavy pressure on top of her body and a steady stream of exhales that didn’t belong to her. How could a dream felt so real... she opened her eyes and the heavy pressure on her body was a guy with wide shoulders and long legs. An An let out a pitch bleeding scream but her scream was swallowed by his lips. What a creep! She couldn’t speak but she was cursing him loudly in her heart. Gu Yang you deserve a brutal death!

‘I’m not going anywhere...’ Gu Yang said.

As if he could read her heart, he eased off some pressure off her lips. 'Any place that doesn't have you there isn't a place I want to go to. I'll never let you go. Don't you dare think you can escape me in your entire life.'

She felt his hot breath and his serious tone. She was scared in his angry state he'd choke her dead so she didn't dare scream again or make any sudden movements that would flame his temper.

'Gu Yang...' she said shakenly. 'It's me, An An...'

'I know it's you,' he said and smiled. 'Bao Bao... you're my Bao Bao...'

His face leaned into her face, he nibbled on her lips, his teeth grazed her lower lip and he suckled on it as if it was a lollipop. The scent from his wine mingled with her saliva or was it she who was in a drunken state of mind otherwise... why did she felt hotter each second that passed, it made her reluctant to push him off her... his hands felt hotter than his body, anywhere his hands touched on her bare skin it felt like he branded scorch marks there, as if his hands had the ability to melt her skin. When he was removing her nightgown she automatically lifted her hip off the bed to cooperate with his movements then their bodies touched skin to skin. And she realised even his lower body was scorching hot... he wasn't wearing underwear...

'Bao Bao...' he murmured in her ear and it made her too weak to move.

He whispered many promises to her that she belonged to him for life and something about... love. The intensity of the heat between them made her forget how long her body was trapped underneath the pressure of his body. His erection gave her a shock. He bit her lips, with one hand he gripped her wrists above her head and his other hand roamed over her body.

'Bao Bao!'

He entered her but his progress was hindered by a tight barrier.

'A! A a a a!'

Her senses returned and her heart beat accelerated. He gripped her wrists tighter. She couldn't see his expression in the dark but she felt the icy sweat from his face dripped down onto her.

‘Scream again and I’ll enter deeper!’

His temper guaranteed her silence. Gu Yang released her and she put on her nightgown before opening her door. Li Mu was behind her door in a position as if he was about to break down the door.

‘What happened?’ Li Mu asked.

She hid her shaky hands behind her back and tried to calm herself before replying.

‘I was sleeping,’ she said.

Under the light outside her room her nightgown was see through. Li Mu turned away from her and coughed.

‘Mmm... your dad called me and said he couldn’t get through your phone. He asked me to check on you,’ Li Mu said.

‘I’m ok,’ she said.

‘Mmm... then I’ll go back to my room. Goodnight Bao Bao,’ Li Mu said.

Li Mu calling her ‘Bao Bao’ was a lightning strike straight through her heart. She closed the door and slid down with her back against the door. Gu Yang was hidden in the shadows, in his hand was her phone and he smiled coldly.

A knock disrupted the tension between them followed by the Liang family’s oldest triplet, Liang Yue’s voice.

‘An An, your dad...’ Liang Yue said.

‘Get lost!’ Gu Yang said.

Outside the door became silent.

She wrapped her arms around her knees and lifted her head to look at Gu Yang. He was a young, broad and tall lawyer. His usual charming smile was wiped from his handsome face, replaced by an angry expression, his jaw clenched tightly to keep silent and hold back his temper.

End of chapter three.

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# Chapter 4

## Chapter Four

An An didn't know when she started crying, Gu Yang sat in front of her and he wiped the tears off her cheeks. She turned her head away from him, he turned her head back to face him and continued to wipe her tears. His palm was gentle on her face and she felt an odd electric current between them.

Gu Yang sighed. 'Bao Bao, Li Mu isn't for you... because you're mine.'

'Get lost!' she said.

She didn't need to look at him to know he was smiling. She'd known him her whole life and memorised all his gestures.

'Bao Bao, you're a dummy,' he said softly and pinched her cheeks. 'Yet I love a bao bao dummy like you.'

'Get lost!' she said and kicked his abdomen. He howled and fell backward on the floor.

At breakfast the next morning, everyone at the dining table looked drowsy. Drowsiness didn't stop Liang Yue from engulfing food in a beastly manner. Liang Xing sat next to Li Mu and drank her milk at a snail pace. Li Mu ate his food in a reserved manner. An An felt the toast in her hand was bland.

'Where's Gu Yang?' the Liang triplets' dad asked a servant.

'Second young master said his chest hurts and won't be coming downstairs,' a servant said.

'What do you mean his chest hurts?' the Liang triplets' dad asked.

An An's palms were sweaty. Could it be the injury was from the kick she gave the sly wolf last night?

Liang Yue was about to say something but changed his mind.

Liang Xing spoke in Liang Yue's stead. 'In the middle of the night didn't Gu Yang rummage the medicine cabinet? Isn't that right Mu Mu? Was it when we were watching a movie together?'

Li Mu didn't get a chance to explain before An An slammed down her butter knife as if nothing happened and smiled.

'Sorry, please continue eating. I'll go take a look at Gu Yang,' An An said.

The Liang triplets' parents exchanged a glance.

An An cursed Li Mu... Stinky Li Mu! Go bury yourself!

An An carried a glass of milk upstairs and some of it spilt out onto her hand, it was cold like her confused state of mind.

Gu Yang's room wasn't locked and An An pushed opened the door. Inside Gu Yang's room was the scent of a young bachelor that she was familiar with. Gu Yang was lying on his bed, half of his chest exposed but a black bed sheet covered his legs. She didn't know if he was asleep.

'Hey,' she said and kicked his soft bottom.

Gu Yang half opened his eyes, 'A... Did you bring my breakfast?'

She wanted to dump the milk onto him but put the glass on his bedside table next to his breakfast.

'Get up!' she said.

He tossed the bed sheet aside and revealed a baggy pants and a bruised abdomen. She reminded herself to stay composed and not get upset over a creep like him.

Whilst he ate she searched for the cream to soothe his sore abdomen. She rubbed the cream onto his injury but couldn't help taking out her anger by rubbing hard into his bruised skin.

'Done,' she said.

She was about to stand up from the bed when she saw the gleam in his eyes. It was too late to retreat, he pulled her onto his lap and their faces were side by side. What a sly wolf, he wore nothing under his baggy pants and she wanted to find a hole to hide her embarrassed self.

'Hey... where were we up to last night?' he asked.

'Don't move! Be careful I might give you a concussion!' she said.



‘Did your prince charming upset you again?’ he asked.

He smirked. ‘After I left your room last night I saw Li Mu and my sis were happily shoulder to shoulder together.’

‘You saw them? Wasn’t their door closed?’ she asked coldly. ‘If there was something going on between them, why would they leave the door open for you to see?’

He braced her hip tighter. ‘Yes I was in the wrong for jumping to conclusions. And your prince charming was innocent as always. I’m still waiting for him to...’

She pushed his arms away from her and he gave her a cheeky look.

‘You know you’re going to lose our bet. Isn’t that right my Bao Bao?’

Her heart pounded in rapid successions.

End of Chapter Four.

## ***Related***

# Chapter 5

## Chapter Five

An An wanted to talk to Li Mu. An An went to the living room upstairs and found Li Mu and Liang Xing were having an animated discussion.

‘Mu Mu,’ An An said.

Li Mu turned his head to An An but Liang Xing stole An An’s thunder and spoke first.

‘I’m going to check on Gu Yang, you two can chat amongst yourselves,’ Liang Xing said in her holier-than-thou manner and left the living room.

‘Do you like Liang Xing?’ An An asked.

An An prayed to the heavens that she had a serene smile pasted on her face that didn’t give away the anxiety she felt about Li Mu’s reply.

Li Mu swept An An’s long hair behind her shoulders and Gu Yang’s kiss bites were visible on An An’s neck. An An’s heart froze and she adjusted her hair to hide the kiss bites on her neck.

‘What are you talking about? That’s Xiao Xing Xing,’ Li Mu denied.

‘You and her have the same life direction, both of you can become a married couple saving lives in third world countries,’ An An said and huffed.

‘Bao Bao,’ Li Mu said in a disagreeing tone toward An An’s logic. ‘Don’t talk about Liang Xing in that way. I only admire her strong will to help others that even I lack in comparison.’

‘What’s there to admire? Do you know how much her family company’s profits are used to back her efforts to have a saintly image?’ An An snapped.

‘There’s lots of people who build companies that make profits. But not many people give up their time and energy devoted to good causes like Liang Xing. Apart from you, others are grateful for Liang Xing’s efforts,’ Li Mu said.

Gu Yang appeared out of thin air. An An was definite her complexion wasn’t serene one bit, because she felt a vein protruded on her forehead.

Gu Yang coldly looked back and forth at Li Mu and An An and smiled coldly.

‘My sis only uses her yearly interest she earns if that isn’t enough to sponsor her charity funds then Liang Yue and I are happy to give up our yearly interests to her,’ Gu Yang said. ‘Li Mu, you earn quite a bit from your yearly investments, what do you do with it?’

Li Mu didn’t hesitate to rebut Gu Yang’s dig at Li Mu. ‘Whatever yearly interests I get from your family’s company I never keep. Instead I give them to Liang Xing’s charities.’

Gu Yang gave An An a secret smile. An An’s brain was about to explode. An An’s face turned bright red in shame.

‘I admit I have too much free time that I have no right to criticise other people’s business,’ An An said through gritted teeth. ‘You’re both generous without fault. It’s me Chen An An that’s stingy and petty.’

‘Bao Bao!’ Both Gu Yang and Li Mu said at the same time.

They each held onto An An’s arms to stop her from storming off. She looked behind her and saw Gu Yang gave Li Mu a death glare. Gu Yang yanked her harder toward Gu Yang. Li Mu let go of her and her body rammed into Gu Yang’s embrace, but Gu Yang kept a firm grip on her arm.

‘Creep, let go of me!’ An An said and gave Gu Yang a vicious dirty look. It was a good thing her back was facing Li Mu. Gu Yang hugged her tighter and Gu Yang whispered into her ear.

‘You want to ask an outsider for help? Too bad Li Mu isn’t an outsider, he’s part of our bet. Bao Bao, you broke a rule of our bet...’

Then Gu Yang kissed her. She heard Li Mu let out a strong groan. But Gu Yang trapped her against a wall and Gu Yang locked both her hands above her head. No matter how much she struggled it didn’t affect Gu Yang’s hold on her. She panicked when she felt Li Mu’s presence silently left the living room.

Gu Yang whispered into her ear. ‘The real mind games just started...’

Li Mu’s abandonment left her heart hollow. She was also ashamed at her tactlessness by bad mouthing about Liang Xing out of jealousy in front of Li Mu.

Gu Yang cursed and let go of An An.

‘If you can’t win then you shouldn’t have accepted the bet. You’ve overestimated yourself,’ Gu Yang said coldly and left her alone in the living room.

After Gu Yang left she realised she was crying.

End of chapter five.

***Related***

# Chapter 6

## Chapter Six

It was great to have a dummy for a mum like An An's mum. There was nothing that was too much trouble for An An's mum even An An's love blues. All An An's mum needed to do was cry crocodile tears and pull her dad's sleeve and he'd be compelled to deal with whatever was troubling An An's mum. Only An An's mum could make An An dad put down his cold exterior, not even An An or Xiao Xiao was an exception.

'An An,' dad said. Her dad's hand that held her was warm. 'Come with me to my study and we can talk for a bit.'

The truth was An An disliked talking with her dad, he was too intelligent and no secret could be hidden from his sharp eyes. She felt she wasn't smart enough or witty enough, which made her uncomfortable in her dad's presence.

'An An, you're all grown up. You don't need me to lecture you. Most of my attention is taken up by your mum, but I can't overlook your current miserable state. I feel the need to interfere to help you solve whatever problem that's affecting you to this extent,' dad said.

An An shook her head and helplessly voiced her dilemma. 'Li Mu likes Liang Xing. You meddling won't change the outcome.'

'Did Li Mu tell you himself?' dad asked.

'I witnessed it with my own eyes. Even though it makes me jealous to see them together they do make an ideal couple,' she said and let go of her dad's hand. 'Dad, I know for certain Li Mu doesn't love me. Li Mu saw Gu Yang kissed me and Li Mu turned away and left.'

An An's dad smiled. 'Gu Yang that little trouble maker...'

An An knew nothing could fool her dad.

'Mmm. This is a problem that should stay between the four of you to solve. Lift up your chin a little. Don't let me see my daughter being played. You won't like this when you were younger. I like an An An that's intelligent and confident,' dad

said.

An An realised both her dad and Gu Yang were similar... cold men like them when they smiled were easy on the eyes.

‘In the love department I inherited mum’s genes,’ she said.

Her dad shook his head and smiled. ‘If you inherited half of your mum’s lovable traits then you wouldn’t be in this situation.’

‘Dad!’ she said. ‘I’m your flesh and blood. Is it that hard for you to offer some comforting words to ease my suffering?’

‘Since I was young I never had the patience to comfort others so I leave it to your mum to do the comforting,’ dad said.

Her dad stood up and offered a final advice. ‘Have a heart to heart talk with Gu Yang. If Gu Yang doesn’t accept your decision then even if you and Li Mu wanted to be together it wouldn’t work out.’

Her dad was someone she looked up to and believed in the most so she followed his advice.

Gu Yang was in disbelief when she took the initiative to seek him out. When she took him to the restaurant she reserved he didn’t wear a devious smile, but he smiled sincerely as if he was truly happy.

‘Honey, what do you want to eat?’ Gu Yang asked.

‘Up to you,’ she said.

‘Just looking at your beautiful eyes makes me full. You choose. Whatever you order I’ll eat,’ Gu Yang said.

‘Gu Yang, I’m not your little girlfriend. You don’t need to sweet talk me. It makes me nauseous before eating dinner,’ she said.

‘Oh. How is the restaurant going to profit tonight?’ Gu Yang asked.

Gu Yang looked disappointed and was about to say something but changed his mind.

‘What about we order a bottle of wine? It’s been a while since we drank wine together,’ she said.

She hated the way Gu Yang scrutinised her with his eyes as if he could decipher her thoughts and feelings.

Gu Yang creased his forehead and smiled brightly. 'Ok.'

End of Chapter Six.

***Related***

# Chapter 7

## Chapter Seven

Gu Yang drank most of the wine. His eyes have always been shiny. Only when he was drunk did his shiny eyes became vulnerable and foggy... the kind that An An loved to hate. It gave her an uncomfortable feeling. It was easier for her to interact with him when he had shiny and haughty eyes that belonged to a privilege second master of the Liang family.

‘Let me drive,’ Gu Yang said.

An An waved his car keys in the air out of his reach. It was no use, because sober or drunk his height rose above her height. All he needed to do was stretch out his arm and grab the keys off her. It made her legs unbalanced and he embraced her. Her nose hit his hard chest.

‘I’m not drunk,’ he whispered into her ear. ‘Besides with you here even if I was drunk I would still drive carefully... An An, you’re more precious than my own life.’

He smiled a lopsided grin that was charming. He gave off a young masculine scent. The night breeze passed through the thin gap between their cheeks and she was positive her eyes were blushing hot.

‘An An, when will you admit defeat? I’m getting a little impatient,’ he said and stroked her forehead.

She smiled confidently. ‘I’m not going to lose. Gu Yang, you don’t need to glue yourself to me anymore. I don’t like you.’

She inhaled his body scent into her chest deeply.

‘Mmm. Are you going to take the initiative to confess to Li Mu?’ he asked.

She nodded because it was hard to lie to him.

He smiled coldly and glared at her like icy night stars.

After a long time he converted his cold smile into a devious smile.

‘Ok,’ he said and leaned into her to buckle her seat belt. ‘I’m anticipating how



it'll play out.'

His words made her heart collapse. She turned her head to pretend to pay attention to the night scene outside the window, but it didn't get rid of her uncomfortable feeling.

'Ok. You just wait and see. Prepare a congratulation toast. Your failure will become a wedding gift for me and Li Mu,' she said avoiding eye contact and forced her voice not to tremble.

He didn't make a sound for a long time. She panicked and turned to face him, but she couldn't see his expression in the shadow.

His body pressed against hers. One hand locked her wrists and one hand held onto her shoulder until she sat still. He gave her an unexpected kiss. His kiss felt both suffocating and sweet. He kissed her like it was his entitlement.

In the chaotic haze she realised why she hated him, because he had a way of getting under her skin. She was meant to be her dad's strong oldest daughter yet Gu Yang was able to humiliate her by taking control of her senses.

'An An,' he murmured.

He kissed her deeper that made her fall deeper into an abyss.

'Give into me. This time I won't get in your way. All I want in return is to increase the stake pile. If you win I'll hand over all my properties, shares and inheritance to you. If you lose I don't want just your first night... An An, I want you to marry me,' he said.

She couldn't believe what he was gambling. Did he lose his mind? It didn't make sense why he'd want to risk his entire fortune for a chance that she'd marry him. It gave her a dizzy feeling both bitter and sweet. Her mind became so muddled that she didn't know her true feelings about his offer.

'Are you game to accept my new condition?' he asked

The tensed mood in the car made it hard for her to hear her own voice. 'Gu Yang...'

End of chapter seven.

***Related***

# Chapter 8

## Chapter Eight

Gu Yang smiled showing his cute dimple that restricted An An's heartbeat.

'An An...' Gu Yang whispered and rubbed her lips with a long finger. 'Are you going to ask me if I'll love you?'

It was typical of him to turn the tables on her. What else did she expect from a lawyer that didn't blink at difficult court cases that would make a regular person coil? How would she ever manage to wiggle out sincere answers from him?

'Well, have you ever loved someone?' she asked and forced a smile. 'Gu Yang, have you ever truly loved one person... to the point one smile from them brightens your whole day... each of their words are treasured in your heart... love them more than you love yourself?'

Even if someone attempted to kill her on the spot she wouldn't allow herself to shed tears in front of him in that moment.

His eyes were an enigma like night shadows. Complex, cold and apathetic eyes stared at her. What was he doing staring at her for? It wasn't as if she was the one person he truly loved. In the world there wasn't his kind of love that existed where mocking someone was a novelty to him. He had a cold persona, but he wouldn't be like her dad after marrying her mum completely shedding his coldness in front of the person he'd love for life. She'd known Gu Yang her whole life and felt that Gu Yang didn't love her.

'Let's go home,' Gu Yang said.

He looked away from her and ignited the car engine and kept his enigma mask on. She kept her eyes on the street lights outside the window. Her heart was drained empty... It was so like Gu Yang to play mind games with her. Yet... in that moment a tiny hope surfaced in her heart that he wasn't toying with her.

When An An went to visit Li Mu, he was busy packing his suitcase. Li Mu's back was facing An An at the door, but she got the feeling that his stiff movements were that of a lonely person.

‘Li Mu,’ she said.

Li Mu turned to face her and there was a slight look of surprise from seeing her standing at the door. Li Mu’s surprise was wiped away with a tender smile.

‘Bao Bao,’ Li Mu said.

She wanted to cry each time she heard Li Mu call her Bao Bao.

‘Where are you going?’ she asked.

Li Mu kept silent.

‘Are you leaving with Liang Xing?’ she asked.

‘Bao Bao,’ Li Mu said after a long time. ‘Whatever you want to say to me, go ahead and say it.’

She realised Li Mu knew her intentions.

‘Li Mu, I made a bet with Gu Yang. If I lose I have to marry him,’ she said in the calmest voice she could master.

Inside she was crumbling and fearful.

‘What’s the bet?’ Li Mu asked, he released the items in his hand and stood up.

Li Mu calmly focused on her. ‘Bao Bao, you’re complexion isn’t good. Why is it that you and Gu Yang need to drag another person into your bet?’

‘You’re not an outsider. You’ve always been in the loop. Li Mu, don’t tell me that you don’t know my heart,’ she confessed.

Li Mu contemplated for a long time. The way Li Mu looked at her solemnly showed no signs of distress or happiness. Instead all she saw was distant eyes that scared her. The distance between them were only a few footsteps, but she felt Li Mu was completely out of her reach. Like how being by Li Mu’s side since young there was something lacking, an invisible barrier that stopped her from getting too close to Li Mu.

‘Bao Bao,’ Li Mu said gently. ‘It’s not that I don’t know, but I know too well. Me, you and Gu Yang all know too well. From past to present there’s only one person in your heart.’

End of chapter eight.

***Related***

# Chapter 9

## Chapter Nine

‘Don’t say anymore,’ An An said and inhaled deeply. ‘Li Mu just tell me if you’re willing to stay for me. Yes or no? Don’t let me have to marry Gu Yang.’

Li Mu hung his head, his hands were empty and there were no signs of his usual calm and collected self. It was like someone possessed him and his beautiful eyes that were identical to his mother were no longer recognisable to An An. Li Mu, he was supposed to be her prince charming. That was why she resented Liang Xing. She knew her jealousy of Liang Xing made her appear ugly, but she didn’t want to acknowledge that she was a nuisance in contrast to Princess Liang Xing.

‘Li Mu, answer me,’ she said in a harsh tone that felt like it came from a faraway place.

Li Mu sighed reluctantly, stood up straight in front of An An and looked straight at her.

‘An An, you can’t always have it your way forever. Having others giving into you all the time will rot you, and you’ll end up taking the love others reserve for you for granted. Gu Yang is no exception. No matter how much Gu Yang loves you, there’s a limit to his love. What guy can put up with a girl that enjoys messing around with their feelings for twenty years?’ Li Mu said.

Li Mu stroked her face. ‘Be sensible and live a happy life with Gu Yang.’

She shoved Li Mu’s hand away. He was startled then immediately smile and held her face tightly between his palms.

‘An An is that the real you? That was the first time you’ve fought back with me,’ Li Mu said.

Li Mu’s tone was filled with both gentleness and regret. It made her heart ache, she sat on the floor, braced her head and tears uncontrollably streaked down.

‘Bao Bao!’ Li Mu said and sat on the floor beside her and stroked her hair.

‘I know your heart too well... from the past to present, hasn’t it been tiring enough for you to pretend to be someone you’re not when you’re with me? You act natural when you’re with Gu Yang. With me, you act elegant, never curse, never drink, lady-like, never open your mouth too wide to eat, never laugh freely... I’ve known all along. The truth is I like the real you when you’re with Gu Yang. You’re like sunshine with Gu Yang. I wanted you to be your sunny self the way you are with Gu Yang. But I have no way to make it happen... the moment you see me you change into a different person. There were times I wanted to tell you, but seeing the trouble you go through to maintain your facade I can only let you be. It’s been too many years that we’ve known each other and both sides can see what’s real. Go to Gu Yang... stop torturing yourself to exhaustion in front of me, go to Gu Yang to be happy and free,’ Li Mu said.

She couldn’t believe Li Mu was able to maintain a smile whilst telling her to be with Gu Yang. She couldn’t see the expression on his face, but she heard the struggle and tightness in his laugh.

‘There were times when I questioned why it turned out this way,’ she said. ‘It’s obvious I like you and you clearly like me from the bottom of your heart. Then why hasn’t it been easy for us to be together without forcing things? Is it not strange... how things unfolded?’

No matter how beautiful an ideal love was it couldn’t compare to the real love shared throughout many years. How could two rivals like her and Gu Yang love each other? She’d realised Li Mu saw straight through her since the beginning and it was one of the reasons lately Li Mu had been travelling restlessly everywhere like a bird without a nest.

‘Li Mu, you don’t have to leave anymore,’ she said. More tears burst out but she kept her voice steady. ‘Li Mu... I’m truly sorry. I should have been straight forward with you long ago.’

‘You dummy,’ Li Mu said and smiled. ‘I’ve been busy with work, not running away from you. The truth is I love hearing your voice and that’s the real reason I fly home often... to see you. Bao Bao, we grew up together. We can’t become husband and wife but we can be close friends. Is that possible?’

‘Don’t cry anymore,’ Li Mu said.

She didn't care if her face was a beastly mess, she hid her face in Li Mu's chest.

'For your sake, stop crying,' Li Mu said and wiped the tears off her face. 'Bao Bao don't cry. Tell me want you want me to do for you to stop crying. If you truly don't want to marry Gu Yang... I'll help you! But you need to think carefully. Your human life span is about one hundred years. You and Gu Yang have already wasted a chunk of your lives.'

'Li Mu, you don't need to care!' she said and punched him.

Li Mu smiled and hugged her tighter and his chin rested on the top of her head. 'No matter what, Bao Bao, you're so lovable. How can that trouble maker Gu Yang not want you?'

She stopped crying and smiled. Then she heard a cold voice behind her back.

'Why wouldn't I want her?' Gu Yang asked.

Gu Yang wore a black shirt, his tie was loose and he looked impatient. 'Don't act like you're such a generous guy and willing to give her to me out of charity.'

Li Mu pulled her up to sit on the bed and he continued packing items into his suitcase. 'Is that what you think? If you don't need her, I don't mind bringing her with me.'

'Dream on!' Gu Yang said coldly.

Gu Yang stepped toward her without saying anything else, pulled her into his arms and forced her to leave the room with him.

These two men... she wasn't happy to comply and struggled with Gu Yang's hold on her. 'Let me go! I can walk on my own.'

'Do you really want me to let you go?' Gu Yang said coldly as if he was ready to toss her on the floor if she gave him an answer he didn't want.

She uncurled her fisted hands that was about to punch Gu Yang, hesitantly looked at him and wrapped her arms around his neck. That way she could see Li Mu over Gu Yang's shoulder. Li Mu's back faced her but it looked like Li Mu was doing his best to concentrate on packing.

'Don't look, Li Mu can't spend all his days chasing you. Don't you think you've badgered Li Mu enough? Then you had to go find him to confess and made me



lose all my dignity too,' Gu Yang said coldly.

She lost her temper. 'Li Mu said in front of him I'm not free to be myself like when I'm with you! Li Mu also said he likes me and that I'm lovable. Didn't you hear him? Or you didn't get to hear everything he said?'

She scratched Gu Yang, pinched him and punched him consecutively. Her heart resented Gu Yang, she resented him for not saying anything clearly. There was also adrenaline and happiness in her heart.

Gu Yang bent his head down and looked at her. His expression was a little different than usual and he got her to sit in his car.

'I heard,' Gu Yang said. 'But what he said was wrong.'

She glared at him. He ignored her and buckled her seat belt. Then he lifted her chin. 'Li Mu said no matter how much I love you, there's a limit to my love. What guy can put up with a girl that enjoys messing around with their feelings for twenty years... Li Mu was wrong.'

There was a stream of sunlight behind Gu Yang but it was outshone by the sunlight in his eyes.

'Chen An An, even if you mess around with my feelings for another twenty years, I'll still love you,' Gu Yang said.

End of Chapter Nine.

Gamble On Love completed.

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